

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

Various structural features for modifying the performance characteristics of cantilevered microelectronic spring structures are disclosed. Generally, the features comprise a protruding member mounted between a supporting substrate and the transverse cantilever beam of a microelectronic spring structure, at a distance spaced apart from the supporting structure from which the beam is cantilevered. The protruding member may be equal to the clearance under the beam, less than the clearance under the beam, or adjustable in height; and may be attached or mounted to either the beam or the substrate. ~~In an embodiment of the invention, the protruding member is substantially rigid and incompressible, and shorter than the clearance under the beam. In an alternative embodiment, the protruding member is substantially "soft" and compressible. Embodiments wherein the protruding member is comprised of a simple structural component, such as a beam, peg, cushion, or post are disclosed, as are an embodiment wherein the protruding member comprises of a multi-component assembly, such as a truss or mechanical actuator. Additionally, embodiments wherein the protruding member comprises an electronic device is attached to both the substrate and the beam are disclosed. Further embodiments wherein the protruding member comprises an adjustable pressure device are also disclosed. Yet further embodiments wherein the beam includes a reverse wiping tip are also disclosed. The protruding member may include an adjustable pressure device or an electronic element. The protruding member may induce a reverse wipe.~~ The protruding member may include an adjustable pressure device or an electronic element. The protruding member may induce a reverse wipe.